

Outdoor Report

The week of December 8th, 2014



South Dakota



Wildlife Division

"Serving People, Managing Wildlife"

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- **Reminder:** The extended antlerless deer season runs from December 27th - January 4th. Only antlerless deer license are valid during this season and any deer licenses are not valid during the extended antlerless season.
 - Muzzleloader deer season runs December 1st – 31st. Antlerless muzzleloader deer season runs January 1st – 15th.
 - Antlerless archery deer season is open from January 1st – 15th.
 - Sand Lake Refuge archery deer season reopened on December 8th – 31st. **Reminder:** Archery antlerless deer licenses are not valid in Sand Lake Refuge.
 - **Reminder:** It is illegal to shoot big game from the road/vehicle. It is also illegal to pursue, chase or harass big game with a vehicle. To make it simple, get out of the vehicle and make it a hunt to remember.
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Brown County



Fishing Report:

Richmond Lake: Fishing has been slow. The ice is only 4 to 6 inches thick, so use caution.

Elm Lake: No fishing activity. The ice is only 4 to 6 inches thick, so use caution.

James River: Parts of the river still have open water. Ice fishing is not advised on the river at this time.

Elm River: No fishing activity.



Hunting Report:

Pheasants: Hunters are finding more pheasants in southern Brown County. Hunters have had to work to get a limit of birds. Most hunters are finding pheasants in cattail sloughs.

Waterfowl: With all the water freezing up, most of the waterfowl have migrated out of the area. There are still some small flocks of mallards and Canada geese by Sand Lake Refuge. **Reminder: the duck season closes on December 9th, the Canada goose season closes December 16th, the white-fronted goose season closed December 7th and the light goose season closes on December 21st.**

Deer: Deer hunters had decent success hunting deer this weekend.

Clark County



Fishing Report:

Dry Lake #2: Little activity.

Dry Lake #1: A few perch and walleye are being caught.

Swan Lake: Little activity.

Baileys Lake: Little activity.

Antelope Lake: Little activity.

Reid Lake: A few perch and walleye are being caught.

Dekkers Slough: Little activity.

Casey's Slough: Fishermen are catching walleye. The walleye are averaging on the smaller side with a few nice fish being caught.

Pepper Slough: Fishermen are finding a few walleye.

Mankey's Slough: Fishermen are catching a few nice walleye and a few perch.

Carson's Slough: Little activity.

Indian Springs: A few walleye and perch are being caught.

Helgeson Slough: No activity.



Hunting Report:

Deer: Mornings and evenings continue to be the best times to hunt. Deer are still herded up around food and shelter sources. The ERD season is now closed.

Small Game: Hunters are still reporting about 2 – 3 birds per hunter. Birds are spooky this time of year and a little more difficult to hunt.

Codington County



Fishing Report:

Pelican Lake: No activity.

Lake Kampeska: No activity.

Dry Lake: The west end has been decent for walleye and northern.

Goose Lake: Goose Lake has been busy with a few walleye being caught in the evenings.

Long Lake: No activity.

Blythe Slough: Good perch bite at times with perch ranging from 8 to 11 inches.

Grass Lake: A few fishermen are catching some walleye in the mornings.

3rd Ave Pond: Still offering good opportunity to youngsters in and around town to catch bluegill, trout or perch.

Stink: A few anglers have been catching some small perch.



Hunting Report:

Waterfowl: Season is still open until December 9th for ducks and December 16th for geese. There hasn't been much in the realm of waterfowl in the area since things have frozen up.

Pheasants: Still not seeing many pheasant hunters out and about. With deer season being over, we expect to see a few more pheasant hunters for the last couple days of the season. With warmer temperatures predicted, hunters should be able to find success walking CRP and tree belts.

Deer: ERD season concluded this weekend that there is still time to fill archery and muzzleloader tags. Deer have definitely begun grouping up in their wintering herds. If hunters can get access to the larger herds, filling late season tags should be possible.

Day County



Fishing Report:

Bitter: Anglers are seeing some success catching quality perch and the occasional keeper walleye.

Waubay: Anglers are starting to branch out from the Grenville grade to the south near buckshot's landing and west of the refuge. Anglers are catching some nice perch and numerous small walleye.

Enemy Swim: Fishing pressure increased this last weekend with anglers having some success catching crappie and bluegill.

Reetz: A good catch and release bite for walleye with sizes ranging from 20 – 25 inches.



Hunting Report:

Pheasant: Hunters seem to be satisfied with the late season pheasant hunting so far. Most hunters are putting pressure on the western portion of the county and utilizing the CREP areas near the county line. There are some reports of birds being wild and flushing early. Birds have moved into thicker cover such as rushes and cattails. Target these areas for better success.

Deer: Most deer are starting to bunch up into larger groups of 20 - 30 at this time. Focus on feeding areas in mornings and afternoons for better success. There remains good opportunity for youth, archery and muzzleloader hunters to fill their tags.

Deuel County



Fishing Report:

Lake Alice: Anglers have now shifted back towards the southwest corner of the lake. A few perch and northern pike are being caught throughout the daytime. Most anglers are catching some walleye in the evening hours.

Lake Cochrane: Anglers have been venturing out a little bit and catching some bluegill, perch and crappie.

Lake Francis: No activity.

Lake Ketchum: No activity.

Clear Lake: No activity.

Fish Lake: No activity.

Round: A few northern pike are being caught.

School: Anglers continue to catch northern pike close to shore on the south end of the lake. A few smaller perch are scattered in the catches as well.

Bullhead Lakes: A few anglers have ventured out with little success.



Hunting Report:

Pheasant: Hunters have been having a little more success with the snow. Cattails along frozen sloughs have provided pretty good opportunity for pheasant hunters.

Deer: Deer movement has been slow. The rut is over.

Faulk County



Fishing Report:

Lake Faulkton: A few anglers are beginning to ice fish.



Hunting Report:

Pheasant: Hunters are having great luck finding birds in the eastern portion of the county. Cattail sloughs seem to be the best area to find the birds.

Deer: Rifle season is now closed. Deer have started grouping up in their wintering grounds.

Grant County



Fishing Report:

Big Stone Lake: The perch bite continues to be decent. Most anglers have been focusing towards the southern end of the lake near the rearing ponds lake access. The fish seem to be biting throughout the day, but the best bite has been mid-afternoon. Small jigs with spikes seem to be working the best. The size range really varies, but you can count on catching a lot of smaller perch with plenty of bigger ones mixed in. No reports of walleye activity as most anglers are targeting the perch.

Summit Lake: No report of activity.



Hunting Report:

Big Stone Power Plant: There still remain a decent number of Canada geese in the area. Duck season closed on the 9th. The Canada goose season remains open until the 16th in this portion of the state. The flight has been inconsistent as of late. Many of the birds are now feeding into Minnesota as well.

Pheasant: Hunters are seeing a few more birds now that the snow is here. Hunters are still going to have to put on a lot of miles walking to find much success.

Deer: Deer movement has been slow. The rut is over.

Hamlin County



Fishing Report:

Lake Poinsett: Starting to see a few more shacks out on Poinsett this week. Reports remain slow with just a few keeper walleye and perch. **Reminder: There is a 15" minimum length on walleye.**

Lake Norden: No Activity.

Lakes John/Marry: No Activity.

Fedt Slough: Good numbers of small perch are being caught.

Clear Lake (Thomas): Some fishermen with very slow activity.

Three Buck: Good numbers of smaller perch are being caught along with some walleye.



Hunting Report:

Waterfowl: There isn't much opportunity in the area due to the ice up.

Pheasants: We're not seeing many hunters around the last week, but with deer season being over, there should be a few more pheasant hunters out. With warmer weathers predicted, hunters should be willing to get out and walk CRP and shelter belts.

Deer: ERD concluded this weekend. There is a couple weeks left to fill archery and muzzleloader tags.

Marshall County



Fishing Report:

Opitz: A few walleye are being caught, but slow.

Piyas: Some very nice walleye and perch are being caught.

Roy: A few northern pike, perch and walleye are being caught.

Clear: Slow.

White: Some nice crappie and the occasional walleye are being caught in the morning and evenings.

Stink: A few walleye are being caught in the morning and evening.



Hunting Report:

Deer: The deer are moving in the morning and evenings. Marshall County does NOT have a January antlerless season. Good luck and be safe.

Pheasant: The hunters are finding birds in heavy cover. Birds are very spooky. White lake game bird refuge is now open for Pheasant hunting until the end of the season.

McPherson & Edmunds Counties



Fishing Report:

There is 6+ inches of ice. Use caution.

Scatterwood Lake: Several people have been trying, but no reports yet.



Hunting Report:

Pheasant: Still good numbers of hunters around this area. Hunters are starting to have better success. Hunters are hunting cattail sloughs and heavy cover areas and finding decent amount of birds.

Deer: Muzzleloader, youth and archery deer season are still going on. Deer are bunched up and mostly in pasture areas.

Coyotes: Hunters looking for coyotes will find plenty in this area. Most landowners will allow a hunter to shoot coyotes.

Roberts County



Fishing Report:

Lake Traverse: Some activity, but action is slow. Be cautious of the ice conditions.

Dry Wood Lake: Some activity and anglers are finding a walleye or northern pike to take home. Be cautious of the ice conditions.



Hunting Report:

Waterfowl: Ducks season is CLOSED! A hunter may find a huntable number of geese coming off the Big Stone Power Plant.

Grouse: Grouse hunters are struggling to find birds.

Pheasant: Hunters had difficulty finding birds, but they are finding one or two.

Deer: Rifle deer season closed with some nice deer being harvested. Youth, muzzleloader and archery deer hunters are still finding deer.

Spink County



Fishing Report:

Twin Lake: Anglers are trying some ice fishing and catching a few small walleyes.

Mud Lake: No fishing activity observed.

Cottonwood Lake: Ice is around a foot thick. A few vehicles are driving out on the ice. Use extreme caution.

Redfield Lake: No fishing activity observed.



Hunting Report:

Pheasant: Hunters are continuing to pick up good numbers of pheasants. Cattail sloughs are the best areas.

Deer: Rifle season is now closed. Deer hunters had very good success. Several nice bucks were taken.